Invitation to the nobel prize winner V.S. Naipaul

956. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Academy of Letters propose to notice suitably that Sir V.S. Naipaul, a writer of Indian origin has been awarded the coveted Nobel Prize this year;

(b) if so, what programmes are contemplated especially in the regional languages of the country; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to invite the celebrated writer to India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) This issue is being placed for consideration before the Executive Board of Sahitya Akademi to held in December, 2001.

(c) There is a proposal to invite Sir V.S. Naipaul for an International Literary Festival under the auspices of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Dates for the festival are yet to be finalized.

Facilities to disabled persons to visit historical monuments

957. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 24 September, 2001 captioned "ASI making historical sites disabled-friendly"; and

(b) if so, by when the historical monuments in the capital which draw a large number of visitors like Qutub Minar etc. are likely to be provided with the aforesaid facilities not only for the disabled persons but even the elderly visitors?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Archaeological Survey of India has provided facilities